



Focus on Fleet

From the State Fleet Manager

Words Fail Us

Although I usually keep this column light-hearted, words fail to express the emotions and the reaction we have all felt in the wake of the terror attacks of September 11. I know that, as each member of my generation remembers where he was when he heard that President Kennedy had been shot, the new generations will now remember where they were on 9-11.

I can tell you that, from our viewpoint here at State Fleet, the world changed forever that day. We will never look up at a low-

flying airliner again without a shiver, and we will always get a little twinge of remembrance whenever we see the Twin Towers in a movie or an old TV show.

Nevertheless, life goes on. Security around here was ramped up in the wake of the attacks, and all security arrangements have been under scrutiny ever since. As always, you should take note of your surroundings and the people around you. Be on the lookout, because you are the eyes and ears of those who protect us.

There are several interesting things in this issue of

Focus on Fleet. There's a story on the new Van Drivers' Safety Course, including the dates of the next offerings and contact information; and some valuable information about the new use of biodiesel to count towards AFV credits.

We also have a profile of Monty Marcengill, Clemson University's Shop Manager, who has been with the agency since 1985.

But whatever happens,
Y'all be safe out there!

— Gerald W. Calk
State Fleet Manager

Maintenance Awards

On 23 October 2001, at the South Carolina Governmental Fleet Managers' Association (SCGFMA) conference, three State maintenance facilities received **Outstanding Maintenance Facility Awards**. The Maintenance Facility Certification Program requires an annual review of state-owned maintenance facilities to assure compliance with the program.

Six areas are reviewed during the Certification review: Purchasing of supplies and parts; an effective inventory control system; a uniform work order and record-keeping system; preventive maintenance program; cost-effective facility operations; and shop safety.

To qualify for the award, maintenance facilities received an on-site review with **no deficiencies noted**. Furthermore, in these facilities, the personnel had gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure a professional working environment.

The following agencies received awards:

- SCDOT, Colleton County. Allen Colson accepted the award.
- SCDOT, Jasper County. Donnie Orr accepted the award.
- SCDOT, Hampton County. Gerald Gooding accepted the award on behalf of Everett Crosby.

See the **Special Insert** for photos of some of these award recipients.

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Shop Manager Profiles

Introducing Monty Marcengill, Clemson University

Monty Marcengill's office is probably not much different from many others, both State or commercial: not enough room for visitors; not much light; and every available space crammed with books full of codes, procedures and records. There is a computer soiled by hard-working hands and a little shelf where you can open a repair manual and make notes.

There is room on one wall for awards, however: there hang, opposite the door, plaques for the Clemson Shop's "Outstanding" ratings from State Fleet Management (1987, 1991, 1997, 2000) and the Bill Nix Award, presented by the South Carolina Governmental Fleet Managers' Association in 1994.

Monty is the sort of shop manager who not only does his job at work, he lives it. In fact, one of his off-duty hobbies is a dirt-track racing team consisting of him and his 15-year-old son. "It used to be," he says, "I would drive and he would change the flat tires. Now he

drives, and I fix the flats." Of course, anyone who's spent any time with Monty knows that he is also an avid outdoorsman. When I called him to arrange this interview, he said, "it's going to be a short interview as long as you don't ask me about hunting or fishing."

The CU shop maintains about 800 University-owned vehicles, although some vehicles in remote areas are serviced through other shops. Monty's shop is unique among State facilities because it also serves as a "vendor" in State Fleet's Commercial Vendor Repair Program. In this capacity, CU also does repairs and maintenance on some vehicles from Vocational Rehabilitation and even from State Fleet.

The shop has come a long way in the 16 years since Monty came to work. For instance, when he started, all the mechanics came to work in blue jeans. Monty had no idea any other shops were wearing uniforms until he attended his first South Carolina Governmental Fleet Managers' Association meeting, and after that he requested the uniforms for his shop. They've been wearing uniforms since 1988.

Of the many training courses Monty has attended over the years, he finds the courses on air conditioning especially helpful because "every car that has AC is going to have problems." He also appreciates classes on fuel injection and drivability diagnostics.

Monty helps to control parts costs for his shop by constantly checking his parts invoices to make sure he is getting the negotiated State discounts. He says he always calls around for parts over a hundred dollars, but he showed me a notebook he keeps with a list of the best vendor prices on certain parts — spark plugs, brake pads and oil filters.

Monty's personal philosophy in running the shop is this: "I treat every car that comes in here as if it were my personal car, and I'm a tightwad." This means putting off repairs until they're

necessary and not scheduling anything prematurely. It also means not buying the most expensive parts just because they have a higher perceived value.

We always ask if people have an amusing story to tell, and Monty's was

"It's going to be a short interview as long as you don't ask me about hunting or fishing."

no disappointment: it seems about eight years ago a biology professor was returning a car to the motor pool, and as he was leaving, he said, "I think you may have a problem with that car. When I got in, I had 20 Black Widow spiders in this box, but when I got here, they were all gone."

Monty says they stared at the car for a day and a half, trying to decide what to do with it. Finally, someone drew the short straw and they bug-bombed the vehicle, placing one fogger in the trunk and another in the interior. The next day, they opened up the vehicle and checked: no spiders. So they took out the seats and the carpeting, and guess what? Still no spiders!

It's likely they all escaped before the foggers went in, but still, you never know. Monty was uncertain about it, but eventually let the car go back into service in the motor pool.

And in case you're wondering, that vehicle is no longer in service!

—Jonathan Eason

Note: Associate Editor Margie Valladares created the questions for this series of profiles.

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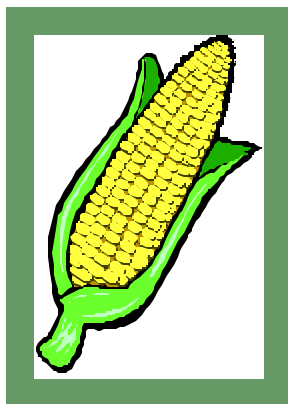
Margie Valladares, *Associate Editor*

Biodiesel Credits available for use by State Agencies

On January 4, 2001 the Department of Energy published a final rule allowing the use of Biodiesel credits for the alternative fuel transportation program. This ruling allows States to purchase and use Biodiesel as a means of satisfying up to 50% of their AFV purchase requirements (75% of light duty vehicle purchases for MY 2002).

For every 2,250 gallons of B20 (20 percent Biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum diesel) used in equipment over 8,500 pounds GVWR, the State will earn one AFV credit. The opportunity to produce AFV purchase credits through the use of Biodiesel offers the State increased flexibility in meeting our AFV purchase mandates. Currently the difference in price between regular petroleum diesel and B20 Biodiesel is \$0.05 per gallon. This equates to about \$112.50 per credit.

This development allows agencies to purchase a smaller, more efficient vehicle instead of a larger vehicle just because it is the lowest priced AFV model available. Accordingly, any request to purchase sedans larger than the "Standard" fleet sedan (a compact vehicle) will require appropriate justification.



State Fleet Management (SFM) will implement the use of Biodiesel in meeting the State's AFV quota. SFM will calculate and order the amount of Biodiesel necessary to meet 50% of the State's AFV purchase requirement. The Biodiesel will then be used at selected South Carolina Department of Transportation fuel sites. SFM will pay the difference in price between regular diesel and Biodiesel directly to the fuel vendor.

Credits generated through the purchase and use of B20 Biodiesel will be held by SFM and allocated to Agencies that have purchased smaller non-AFVs.

We are pleased to announce that there will be no charge to agencies that receive credits under this plan during FY 2001-2002.

Contact Jeff McCormack at (803) 737-1504 or by email at jmccormack@ogs.state.sc.us for more information about Biodiesel or about Alternative Fuel Vehicles.

Fleet Safety Awards

In the years since the Budget and Control Board first approved the South Carolina Fleet Safety Program, the State vehicle fleet has experienced a steady decline in the number and frequency of accidents. We believe this decline is directly related to the statewide implementation of the Fleet Safety Program.

Consider these examples:

- In FY2001, the State Fleet traveled 192,472,000 miles.
- The State Fleet Accident Frequency Rate was 5.24 (per million miles traveled).
- State employees earned 3,118 Safe Driving Awards.
- 1,583 State employees successfully completed the Defensive Driving Course or the Driver Improvement Program.
- Special pins were awarded to 958 employees as a reward for accident-free driving.

In addition to the personal safe driving awards, State Fleet Management also gives out safety awards to agencies based on their safety performance. We present these awards within agency-size categories to those agencies that have the lowest Accident Frequency Rate (AFR) and that best administer the provisions of the State Fleet Safety Program.



The awards were presented at the South Carolina Governmental Fleet Managers' Association conference in Myrtle Beach, SC on 23 October. Here are the winners for FY 2001, along with the names of those who accepted the awards:

Size Category	Agency	FY2001 AFR
Large	SC Dept. of Transportation John W. Gaither, Employee Safety Coordinator Philip Brooks, Fleet Safety Manager	1.13
Medium	SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority Ms. Dolores G. Hill, Executive Secretary	0.00
Small	Francis Marion University Frank A. Braddock, Superintendent of Plant Operations	0.00
Most Improved	SC Dept. of Disabilities and Special Needs Allen Mance, Jr., Director, Procurement Services Sue Gettig, Property and Inventory Control Manager	N/A

We congratulate these State agencies on their outstanding accomplishments and wish everyone success and safe driving in the coming year.

Contact Ron Tvorik, Fleet Safety Officer, at (803) 737-1602 for more information on the Fleet Safety Program. You can reach him by email at RTvorik@ogs.state.sc.us. See the Special Insert for photos of the Safety Awards presentation at the SCGFMA Conference.

Focus on Fleet: Safety Corner

Tie One On for Safety

As in past years, State Fleet management is supporting MADD's Red Ribbon Campaign. Some 8,600 red ribbons will be sent to State agencies to tie on their vehicles' antennae as a pledge not to drink and drive. This year's campaign begins on 21 November and lasts until Tuesday, 1 January 2002. MADD has already received orders for some 300,000 red ribbons.

We thank you for your support and encourage you to make Safe, Sober Driving your Number One New Year's Resolution. You can contact MADD at:

MADD SC
2711 Middleburg Dr., Ste. 116
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 543-8692 or 748-7333

Safety Compliance

Some agencies have been slow to comply with State Fleet Safety requirements.

Every agency, regardless of size, is required to perform an annual license

screen of all persons who routinely operate State vehicles. As a courtesy to our client agencies, State Fleet Management offers a semiannual bulk driver license screen. Individual screens can be performed any time: just call Ron Tvorik.

Agencies are required to provide a Quarterly Accident Summary on the tenth day working day after the close of each quarter.

Defensive Driving or Driver Improvement Program classes are also re-



quired for all employees who have occasion to drive a State vehicle. Not only is the initial eight-hour class required, but also the four-hour refresher course, which must be taken every three years.

Van Drivers' Safety Course

This is a reminder to all leasing agencies using 15-passenger vans or ADA vans that State Fleet Management will be offering the Van Drivers' Safety Course at the Criminal Justice Academy Driving Range on 9 November and 7 December 2001. Classes are limited to 12 students. Dates for the first half of 2002 are currently being confirmed and will be announced soon.

The fee for the course is \$25.00. Agencies are billed for this amount only after the driver has completed the class. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a Course Completion Certificate, suitable for framing.

If you have questions about the Safety program, contact State Fleet Safety Officer Ron Tvorik at (803) 737-1602. You can also reach him by fax at (803) 737-1160 or by email at Rtvorik@ogs.state.sc.us.

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State Fleet Management
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Scenes from the SCGFMA Conference

Springmaid Beach, 21-23 October 2001



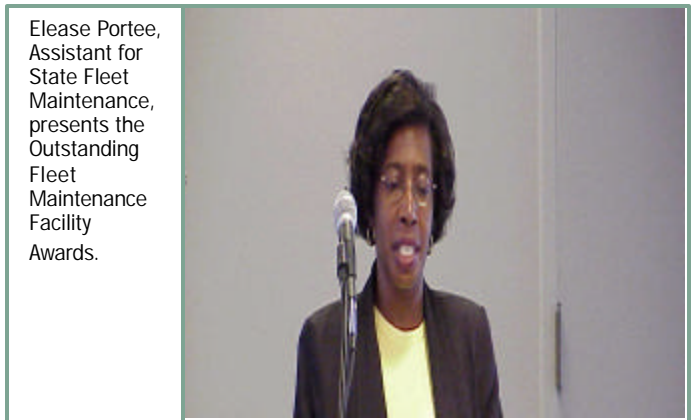
John W. Gaither and Philip Brooks of the DOT accept the Fleet Safety Award from Gerry Calk, State Fleet Manager. At the Podium is Ron Tvorik, State Fleet Safety Officer.



Allen Colson of the DOT Maintenance Facility in Colleton County accepts the Outstanding Maintenance Facility Award from Fleet Manager Gerry Calk. At right is Sheila Crouse of the DOT.



Frank Braddock of Francis Marion University accepts the Fleet Safety Award from State Fleet Manager Gerry Calk.



Elease Portee, Assistant for State Fleet Maintenance, presents the Outstanding Fleet Maintenance Facility Awards.



State Fleet Safety Officer Ronald J. Tvorik presents the Fleet Safety Awards at the SCGFMA Conference.



Donnie Orr of the DOT Maintenance Facility in Jasper County accepts the Outstanding Maintenance Facility Award from Fleet Manager Gerry Calk. At right is Sheila Crouse of the DOT.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

United Energy, Inc. Opens Alternative Fuels Site

First Commercial Alternative Fuels Site in Nation

The grand opening of United Energy Distributors, Inc.'s alternative fuel facility was held on October 18, 2001. This site is unique because it is the first full service, commercial, multiple-fuel, alternative fuel site in the United States.

Among the alternative fuels this facility offers its customers are: E85 ethanol, B20 biodiesel, and propane. E85 ethanol fuel is a high octane, water-free alcohol produced from the fermentation of sugar or converted starch blended with gasoline in an 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline ratio. Biodiesel is a renewable, non-toxic fuel derived from vegetable oils such as soybean oil and canola oil, as well as recycled cooking oil. It can be blended with diesel fuel in any proportion or used in its pure form, and is commonly used in a 20% blend with petroleum diesel known as B20.



Governor Jim Hodges, United Energy President "Red" Roberts, and DHEC Transportation Director Jan Smoak.

Among the officials on hand for the opening were South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges and United States Department of Energy Director James Powell. United Energy President James H. "Red" Roberts serves as stakeholder with the Midlands Clean Cities Coalition and has worked tirelessly to promote alternative fuel usage.

The facility is located at 1046 Toolebeck Road, just off Pine Log Road from Highway 78 in Aiken, South Carolina. For more information about the site, call (803) 642-0113 or send e-mail to UED1995@aol.com.

Governor Hodges signed an Executive Order at the grand opening ceremony that requires State agencies to make greater use of available alternative fuel sources.

Executive Order No. 2001-35

WHEREAS, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States clearly demonstrate the fragility of the international oil distribution system, and political instability will be a hallmark of the Middle East for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the National Energy Policy Act of 1992 ("EPAAct") identified a need for increased availability of indigenously produced alternative fuels as part of an overall effort to reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, EPAAct mandates that alternative fuel vehicles must constitute 75% of annual state fleet purchases; and

WHEREAS, EPAAct identifies, among others, ethanol and biodiesel fuels as alternative fuels, and United States Department of Agriculture research revealed that South Carolina can produce both; and

WHEREAS, ethanol and biodiesel fuels can become a viable industry to diversify crop production and offer financially lucrative alternatives for South Carolina farmers; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina's Clean Cities Coalitions surveyed government agencies and private companies in their regions, and identified over one thousand alternative fuel vehicles but only one publicly available refueling station.

NOW THEREFORE, I DO HEREBY:

1. Strongly support the efforts of South Carolina's Clean Cities Coalitions and private business to increase the use of alternative fuels in South Carolina.
2. Whenever practical and economically feasible, require all State agencies operating alternative fuel vehicles to use alternative fuels.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of South Carolina, this 18th Day of October, 2001

JIM HODGES, GOVERNOR
